

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-15 without prejudice.

Please add new claims 20-22.

Please amend claim 16 as follows:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-15 (**Cancelled**)

16. (**Currently amended**) A method of determining if a cell is neoplastic, comprising ~~the step of~~ comparing expression of ~~a first~~ *hPNQALRE* gene in a first cell suspected of being neoplastic with expression of ~~a second~~ *hPNQALRE* gene in a second cell which is normal, wherein said ~~first and said second~~ *hPNQALRE* genes ~~comprise~~ comprises a coding sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) SEQ ID NO:1;
- (b) SEQ ID NO:3;
- (c) SEQ ID NO:5;
- (d) SEQ ID NO:7;
- (e) nucleotides 76-114 of SEQ ID NO:5;
- (f) nucleotides 503-564 of SEQ ID NO:3; and
- (g) nucleotides 542-603 of SEQ ID NO:5, wherein over-expression of ~~said first~~ *hPNQALRE* gene in said first cell indicates neoplasia in said first cell.

17. (**Previously presented**) The method of claims 16 wherein said first cell is a lung cancer cell.

18. (**Previously presented**) The method of claims 16 wherein said first cell is an epithelial cancer cell.

19. **(Previously presented)** The method of claims 16 wherein said first cell is a colon cancer cell.

20. **(New)** The method of claim 16 wherein the second cell is a known normal cell from the same source as the first cell.

21. **(New)** The method of claim 16 wherein the neoplasia is selected from the group consisting of carcinoma, melanoma, and sarcoma.

22. **(New)** The method of claim 16 wherein the neoplasia is colorectal carcinoma or non-small cell lung carcinoma.